



Date: April 17, 2012

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Theodore L. Voorhees, Deputy City Manager
From: Mark D. Ahrendsen, Director of Transportation
Felix C. Nwoko, Transportation Planning Manager
Subject: Agenda Item – New Freedom (NF) Grant Project Ordinance Superseding
NF Grant Project Ordinance #13885

Executive Summary

The Transportation Department is requesting an amendment to the New Freedom (NF) Grant Project Ordinance #13885 to reflect a Program of Projects revision approved by the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO). The proposed amendment will increase NF funding for a transportation program administered by Durham Senior Life (formerly Durham Coordinating Council for Senior Citizens) by \$13,540.00.

This proposed grant project ordinance will supersede Grant Project Ordinance #13885, which was adopted by the City Council on September 8, 2009.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Durham City Council adopt the NF Grant Project Ordinance superseding Grant Project Ordinance #13885.

Background

The City of Durham, as the Lead Planning Agency (LPA) for the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) is awarded Section 5317 New Freedom (NF) grants by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to improve transportation services to the elderly and persons with disabilities. Section 5317 is a formula grant program for public or alternative transportation services and facility improvements to address the needs of persons with disabilities that go beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Funds are eligible to cover capital and/or operating costs for eligible projects. The Durham Senior Life (DSL) center was awarded grant funding based on a competitive scoring system that is applied to all eligible grant project proposals. Also, Triangle Transit and Chapel Hill Transit were awarded \$13,540.00 of Section 5317 grant funds for paratransit assessment, but opted not to utilize the funds. The funds will lapse if not utilized and are only eligible for reallocation to DSL (one of the 2009 Section 5317 program of projects).

Issues and Analysis

The City of Durham serves as the Lead Planning Agency (LPA) for the DCHC MPO. The City of Durham is awarded New Freedom (NF) grants by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

to improve transportation services to the elderly and persons with disabilities beyond improvements required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The 2009 NF Program of Projects approved by the MPO contained New Freedom funding of \$20,000.00 to Durham Senior Life (formerly known as Durham Coordinating Council for Senior Citizens) to train seniors on how to access public transportation and ride buses. This program has been successful and has helped many seniors to be independent. For example, after the training, several seniors were able to take the bus to Southpoint Mall for Christmas shopping and lunch. Also they were able to ride the bus for field trips and learn how to connect to Triangle Transit and Chapel Hill Transit. The proposed amendment will provide additional funding to Durham Senior Life to expand the training they offer on how to use public transportation.

Alternatives

The City Council can adopt or not adopt the New Freedom (section 5317) GPO superseding GPO #13885.

- A. Approving the request will allow Durham Senior Life to expand services for senior citizens and persons with disabilities.
- B. If the City Council does not adopt the Grant Project Ordinance:
 - 1. FTA funds (\$13,540.00) will be forfeited.
 - 2. Durham Senior Life would be unable to expand travel training for seniors and persons with disabilities.

Financial Impact

The proposed amendment to the current grant project ordinance will not require additional funds from the City.

SDBE Summary

Due to the nature of this project, an SDBE summary is not needed.

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Proposed Grant Project Ordinance (GPO) Superseding GPO #13885